SAFE RETURN TO MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA DURING COVID-19

The Province's workplace safety authority, WorkSafeBC, requires that employers have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place and has provided Protocols and Tools to do so. Employers are responsible to:

- Get ready. Familiarize yourself with current Provincial Health Officer orders, notices or guidance and WorkSafeBC's COVID-19 online resources
- Read the WorkSafeBC Health & Safety Protocols for motion picture industry employers returning to safe operation
- Develop your own COVID-19 specific Safety Plan that reflect WorkSafeBC protocols and meet Provincial Health Officer orders and guidance.

B.C.'s motion picture industry stakeholders are generating detailed resources to assist in the safe return to operations.

Consult the BC Motion Picture Industry Coalition Safety Guidelines for industry-specific high-level guidelines to support employers to start or resume production (due mid-June, sign up to receive, monitor creativebc.com COVID-19/motionpicture)

Enhance your COVID-19 Safety Plan with the resources from The BC Motion Picture Industry COVID-19 Pandemic Production Guide and Department-specific Guidance for industry-specific detailed guidelines to support employers returning to operation (in development, sign up to receive, monitor creativebc.com COVID-19/motionpicture)

Need more information? contact filmcommission@creativebc.com

FAQ

Can I start production? Provided you, as an employer, have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place that meets WorkSafeBC Health & Safety Protocols for Motion Picture and Provincial Health Officer COVID-19 Orders, Notices & Guidance, employers can start or resume activities.

Does the government or WorkSafeBC need to approve my COVID-19 safety plan? No. Employers are responsible to develop their own COVID-19 Safety Plans. There are WorkSafeBC prevention officers to answer questions regarding your safety plan. Additionally, the Actsafe Safety Association can review and provide feedback on an employer’s safety plans.

Do I need to wait for government authorization to resume production operations? The motion picture industry in B.C. was never ordered to shut down, however, all employers carefully restarting activity must be in compliance with Provincial Health Officer orders, notices and guidance, and must develop and implement their own COVID-19 Safety Plans. The WorkSafeBC Health & Safety Protocols for Motion Picture were published June 5, 2020 and other online resources are available to develop your safety plans.

Can I gather more than 50 people together at work? Yes. The Provincial Health Officer’s order on Mass Gatherings does not apply to the presence of workers at a workplace when engaged in their work activities.

What about the border? International and domestic travel continues to be restricted but those with valid work permits can enter. Information about the border is available here. The Public Health Agency (PHAC) and BC’s Provincial Health Officer’s 14-day quarantine remains in place for British Columbia. Creative BC will continue to provide updates and current information regarding border protocols: filmcommission@creativebc.com.

Do I need to wait for the additional resources to be published before I start production? No. The BC Motion Picture Industry Coalition Safety Guidelines and Pandemic Production Guide are intended as a guide to support the safe return to production.
This document was prepared by Creative BC’s provincial film commission for use by stakeholders in B.C.’s motion picture industry during the global pandemic. Visit creativebc.com June 5, 2020.